

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, OCTOBER 11, 2019

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Regular Workshop at 9:00 a.m., in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center, 30 East Texar Drive, Pensacola, Florida, with the following present:

Chair: Mrs. Patricia Hightower (District IV)  
Vice Chair: Mr. Bill Slayton (District V)  
Board Members: Mr. Kevin L. Adams (District I)  
Mr. Paul Fetsko (District II)  
Dr. Laura Dortch Edler (District III)

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Malcolm Thomas

School Board General Counsel: Mrs. Donna Sessions Waters

Meeting advertised in the *Pensacola News Journal* on September 26, 2019 – Legal No. [3803009](#)

Minutes prepared according to *Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised*

[*General discussion among School Board Members, the Superintendent, and staff occurred throughout this session.*]

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Hightower welcomed everyone in attendance as well as those watching via live streaming and thanked them for their interest in public education. She called the Regular Workshop to order at 9:00 a.m. Mrs. Hightower reminded those who wished to speak during public forum, to submit a registration form.

Organizational Meeting – School Board Members agreed to schedule their annual Organizational Meeting for November 19, 2019, at 5:00 p.m., in Room 160 of the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center.

II. COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

-Changes to the October 15, 2019 Regular Meeting - The Superintendent advised that the following changes were forthcoming: DELETE: Item V.b.2.E.5., *Professional Services Agreement: Mr. Robbins' Neighborhood – After School Program*; ADD: Item V.b.1.E.1., [Transportation Reimbursement Request](#).

-2019-2020 Strategic Plan (continued from October 10, 2019 Special Workshop) The chair of each strategic plan committee took a moment to briefly review the 2019-2020 Strategic Plan: Environment Pillar – Ms. Jaleena Davis, Director-Food Services; Finance Pillar – Ms. Allison Watson, Senior Purchasing Agent; People Pillar – Mr. Keith Leonard, Director-Human resource Services; and Service Pillar – Mr. Brian Alaback, Director-Professional Learning. It was noted that the 2019-2020 Strategic Plan would be presented to the School Board for consideration for approval at the November 19, 2019 Regular Meeting.

III. MINUTES

-No items discussed

IV. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

-No items discussed

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-No items submitted

VI. NEW BUSINESS

a. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

1. Rule(s) Adoption  
-No items submitted
2. Permission to Advertise  
-No items submitted

b. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Curriculum
- K. Workforce Education

4. [Escambia County School District High School Career Academy Application Pensacola High School Digital/Social Media Academy](#)

At the request of Mrs. Hightower, Dr. Michelle Taylor, Director-Workforce Education, discussed the establishment of a digital/social media academy at Pensacola High School that would provide opportunity for students to prepare for high-skill, high-wage positions related to effective communication using technology. On a separate but related matter, the Superintendent advised that in the near future, staff would share information with the School Board regarding a new regional initiative called the Escambia Career Pathways.

2. Finance and Business Services

C. Budgeting

6. [Disposal and Demolition of Portable #184 and Portable #401 at Ensley Elementary School](#)

There were no questions/concerns regarding this particular item; however, Mr. Slayton initiated a conversation regarding portables when he inquired as to how many remained in the School District. The Superintendent reminded School Board Members that decreasing the number of portable classrooms was an objective of the School District's Strategic Plan, which staff had reviewed earlier in this session. *Count of Portable Classrooms: Baseline in 2016-2017 school year was 276. Actual count at end of 2017-2018 school year was 263. Actual count at end of 2018-2019 school year was 237. Target for 2019-2020 school year is 217.* Upon inquiry by Mr. Slayton, Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent-Operations, clarified that portables typically phase out on a school campus, initially being used as classrooms, then becoming storage, and ultimately being disposed of or relocated.

7. [Donation of Surplus Buses to Okaloosa County School District](#)

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, the Superintendent said he doubted that the majority of school districts would be interested in these surplus buses given their age, but for Okaloosa County, these were actually an upgrade compared to their current fleet. The Superintendent noted this was the second consecutive year he had recommended a donation of surplus buses to Okaloosa County. Although he certainly desired to help this neighboring school district, he did not wish to become their go-to source for buses thereby eroding Escambia's own resources; therefore, he had advised Okaloosa's superintendent that in the future, they would need to bid/purchase surplus buses at auction.

8. [Schedule of Litigated Refunds to Tax Collector – Beach Taxes](#)

At the request of Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Terry St. Cyr, Assistant Superintendent-Finance & Business Services, reviewed this latest invoice (September 30, 2019) from the Escambia County Tax Collector for litigated beach tax refund payments of approximately \$4 million. Ms. Theresa McCants, Director-Budgeting, gave a brief explanation on the budget amendments made to accommodate this payment.

15. [Playground Shade Structures for McArthur, Molino Park, and West Pensacola Elementary Schools](#)

Mr. Slayton thought it important to note that the faculty and administration of each of these schools had requested the installation of playground shade structures as part of their school project requests under the One-Half Cent Sales Tax fund.

16. [Replacement Chiller for West Florida High School](#)

Upon inquiry by Mr. Slayton, Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent-Operations, explained that at the time of the West Florida High School renovation, this chiller was operating properly and therefore, not replaced as a course of the renovation. Unfortunately, that chiller was now beyond repair and replacement was necessary.

3. Human Resource Services

-No items discussed

4. Operations

A. Facilities Planning

2. Miscellaneous

- a. [Purchase Agreement between Constancio Maghirang and Teresita Maghirang and the School Board of Escambia County, Florida](#)
- b. [Purchase Agreement between Mary Ann Baltz and the School Board of Escambia County, Florida](#)
- c. [Purchase Agreement between David Edward Everage and the School Board of Escambia County, Florida](#)

The Superintendent explained that the acquisition of these three separate residential properties adjacent to each other across the street from the Escambia High School would help expand the campus footprint such that it could eventually accommodate an auditorium and its associated parking.

G. Protection Services

1. [2019-2020 FSSAT School Security Risk Assessment Recommendations](#)

It was noted that this item would be pulled for separate vote at the October 15, 2019 Regular Meeting in order to comply with Section 1006.07(6), Florida Statutes. Section 1006.07(6), Florida Statutes, Safety and Security Best Practices: *Annually, each district school board must receive such findings and the school safety specialist's recommendations at a publicly noticed district school board meeting to provide the public an opportunity to hear the district school board members discuss and take action on the findings and recommendations.*)

c. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

-No items submitted

d. ITEMS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

-No items discussed

e. INTERNAL AUDITING

-No items submitted

f. ITEMS FROM GENERAL COUNSEL

-No items submitted

VII. PUBLIC FORUM

-No registration forms submitted

The Regular Workshop recessed at 10:57 a.m. and reconvened at 11:10 a.m., with all School Board Members, the Superintendent, and General Counsel present.

VIII. DISCUSSION ON APPOINTED SUPERINTENDENT PROCESS

-Superintendent Job Description – School Board Members were sent a copy of the latest version of the job description for Superintendent which incorporated changes made during previous workshop sessions. This latest version would be submitted for the School Board’s consideration for approval on the November 19, 2019 Regular Meeting agenda.

-Citizens Advisory Committee – Mrs. Hightower distributed a form she was thinking of using to obtain information from her appointees to the Citizens Advisory Committee. There was much discussion as to what types of information School Board Members should request from their appointees. It was noted that once submitted, all information provided in this form would become a matter of public record and open to public inspection. It was also noted that appointments were not official until such time as accepted by the School Board at the April 21, 2020 Regular Meeting. Mrs. Hightower was to update the form such that only essential contact information was required, a short bio would be optional, and the signature of the appointing School Board Member would be required. The majority of School Board Members also wanted the following question included: *Are you a registered voter in Escambia County?*

-Online Survey Results –A link was to be shared with the entire School Board so that individual members could view survey responses on their own.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

Attest:

Approved:

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Superintendent

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Chair